

Technology in Rural Transportation

A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:



Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at <http://inform.enterprise.prog.org>

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533 email: to@crc-corp.com

Speed Warning Systems

Overall goal:

To improve safety by lowering the speed of trucks on a narrow curve with a history of severe truck accidents.

Technical approach:

Vehicles traveling too fast for conditions, particularly on curves or long downslopes increase their risk and hence their likelihood of being involved in an accident. This simple solution is a method for warning these vehicles in real-time to the impending dangers with the expectation that the vehicles will slow down. A radar gun was installed to determine the speed of trucks approaching the curve. If a speeding truck is detected, a variable message sign is activated which reads "YOU ARE SPEEDING AT [xx] M.P.H. 45 M.P.H. CURVE AHEAD."

Current status:

The system has been in place and operational since September 1996.

Location / geographic scope:

The curve, which is on a down gradient and which tightens from seven to five degrees midway, is on I-70 in Glenwood Canyon, Colorado.

Agencies involved:

Colorado Department of Transportation

Cost information:

The cost of the system is estimated at between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

Key contacts:

Jim Nall, Colorado Department of Transportation. (970) 248-7213

Have goals been achieved?

The maximum design speed for the curve was 43 mi/h due to limited sight distance. Speed tests were performed before and after the installation of the sign. Prior to installation, the 85th percentile of truck speed was 66 mi/h. Following installation this reduced to 48 mi/h.



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Solution timeline:

CDOT plans to leave the system permanently installed. At present there are no plans to implement the system in additional locations.

